

internal defect parameters are not exceeded. By means of the display of the fault message for the weight-sensing system, a possible malfunctioning of the occupant protection system is also pointed out.

CLAIMS:

1. Method of monitoring the operatability of a weight-sensing system in a vehicle having at least one force sensor (2, 4, 6, 8), characterized in that the weight-sensing system emits a warning message when a threshold value for the force acting upon the force sensor (2, 4, 6, 8) is exceeded, which warning message points to a possible damage to the weight-sensing system.

2. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that, in the event of an impact of the motor vehicle, the warning message is emitted by another impact sensor of the vehicle sensing the impact.

3. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that, when the given value for the force acting upon the force sensor (2, 4, 6, 8) in the event of an impact of the vehicle is not reached, the warning message is emitted by an occupant protection system sensing the impact.

4. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the warning message is displayed in a combination instrument of the vehicle, particularly as a text and/or as a further development of a signal light.

5. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the warning message is set on a CAN (car area network) bus and/or is filed in a fault memory.

6. Method according to Claim 1,

characterized in that a strain gauge force transducer, an inductive sensor or a piezoelectric sensor is provided as the force sensor.